

MOUNTAINS MICRO BASIN DEGRADATION INDICATORS BASED IN DURATION CURVES ANALYSIS IN THE SOUTHERN ANDES OF ECUADOR

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The degradation of hydrographical catchments has been determined by the flow duration curves of seven micro catchments. These micro catchments are characterized by different vegetation covers and degradation levels. Three not degraded and four human interfered micro catchments have been analysed and compared. The duration curves indicate hydrological behaviour and account for their alterations. For micro catchments with natural woods, the curves are characterized by a significant flow regulation during summertime. The paramo micro catchments have curves with minor slopes indicating minor degradation; the other curves show major slopes with a specific degradation level.

